

REMARKS

By the present amendments, claims 2, 10-13, 23-27 and 30-38 now appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-9 have been canceled. Claims 5, 14-22, 28 and 29 were previously canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not claimed in the current application.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended such that they now depend from claim 2.

Thus, no new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,714,253 to Nakahara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,830,087 to Sullivan et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,431,193 to Nesbitt. This rejection is deemed to be moot in light of the cancellation of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action states that claims 23-27 and 30-38 are allowed and that claims 2 and 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present amendments, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants submit that currently amended claim 2 is allowable. Applicants also submit that claims 10-13, each of which depends directly or indirectly from claim 2, is also allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

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Response dated February 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2006

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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